

**REMARKS**

By the present Amendment and subject to the Examiner's approval, Applicants propose to amend claims 15-17 to more appropriately define the invention. The proposed amendments are fully supported by the specification and drawings. See, e.g., specification, page 27, line 16 - page 29, line 19; see also Fig. 16. Claims 15-17 are pending, and claims 11-13 and 18-24 are withdrawn as directed to non-elected invention.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and provisionally rejected claims 15-17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 15-17 of copending Application No. 10/697,260.

Applicants acknowledge the provisional rejection of claims 15-17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, and respectfully request that this rejection be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated in the present application. Applicants also reserve the right to traverse the rejection and file a terminal disclaimer.

In rejecting claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner stated that the phrase "the adjacent edge of the substrate" in claim 15 is indefinite. Office Action at 3. The Examiner also stated that "from the wording of the claim [15], it appears that the dropping point, etc.[.] could occur outside of the substrate, so that during the coating the entire substrate is covered. It is unclear how the invention would work if this is the case." Office Action at 5.

Applicants submit that the proposed amendments overcome the part of the rejection of claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, related to the phrase “the adjacent edge of the substrate” in claim 15.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation of the recitation in claim 15 of “a distance between a dropping start position and the adjacent edge of the substrate is relatively larger than a distance between a dropping end position and the adjacent edge of the substrate along the rank direction, and the distance between a liquid film and the adjacent edge of the substrate along the file direction is set so as to gradually become smaller from the dropping start position to the dropping end position.” This recitation does not suggest that “the dropping point, etc.[.] could occur outside of the substrate, so that during the coating the entire substrate is covered.” Office Action at 5. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide support for such an interpretation should she maintain the rejection of claims 15-17 on this basis.

Absent the support for such interpretation of amended claim 15, the rejection of claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 15-17 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 15-17 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in

the claims examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

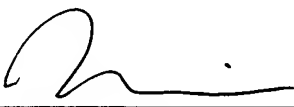
Applicants, therefore, request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, and not requested by attachment, such extension is hereby requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17 that are not enclosed, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 14, 2005

By:   
Qingyu Yin  
Ltd. Rec. No.: L0222